

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

290640Z Jul 05

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 000877

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/BCLTV; PACOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/21/2015

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [BM](#) [CH](#)

SUBJECT: CHINESE FM LI CALLS ON THE BURMESE GENERALS

REF: BEIJING 12082

Classified By: COM Carmen Martinez for Reasons 1.4 (b,d)

1, (C) Summary: The SPDC's top generals rolled out the red carpet for Chinese FM Li, who made a hastily planned overnight visit to Rangoon July 27-28. A senior GOB official told us that FM Li's primary objective was to lobby Burma on the G-4 UNSC reform issue. Chinese diplomats suggested to us that the regime's apparent decision to pass on the ASEAN chair was not on the agenda. End Summary.

12. (C) Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing made a 24-hour visit to Rangoon on July 27-28 and held separate meetings with SPDC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe and Prime Minister General So Win. The MFA's DG for Protocol, Thura Aung Htet, who participated in the meetings, told the COM on July 28 that FM Li had visited primarily to secure Burma's support to stop the G-4 UNSC resolution (reftel).

13. (C) The Chinese Embassy DCM, Yu Boren, and political counselor, Deng Qinghua, told A/DCM that FM Li's visit was originally scheduled to take place at the end of August. Explaining that there had not been a visit of a Chinese Foreign Minister to Burma in over 12 years, they said that FM Li had intended to spend several days in Rangoon and also visit Mandalay, Burma's second largest city and home to a substantial Chinese presence. However, "pressing business" in Beijing resulted in the hastily planned overnight visit this week and cancellation of the August trip.

14. (C) The Chinese diplomats said that FM Li "killed five birds with one stone" during his visit, as the meeting with Senior General Than Shwe also included the military regime's top generals: SPDC Deputy Chairman Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, JCS General Thura Shwe Mann, PM General Soe Win, and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

SIPDIS

15. (C) Our Chinese interlocutors, who also participated in the meetings, would not reveal details of Li's discussions with the SPDC, but intimated that the GOB's apparent decision to pass on the 2006 ASEAN chair was not on the agenda (Note: The GOB has not made a single public reference to the decision since the joint communique was issued in Vientiane on July 26. End Note).

Martinez